

withdrawn

MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE ON THE CHANGKUFENG INCIDENT,
July 22, 1938

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From Moscow
Dated July 22, 1938
Rec'd 9:53 a.m.

Secretary of State
Washington
July 22, Noon.

My telegram July 21, 4 p.m. and previous.

Moscow morning papers publish conspicuously a communique entitled "The baselessness of the representations and demands of the Japanese Government" of which following is a translation.

"On the 20th of this month the Japanese Ambassador visited the Peoples Commissaire for Foreign Affairs and made the following declaration to him.

The Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on July 15th on the basis of the Khun Chun agreement and the maps subjoined thereto rejected the demand of the Japanese Embassy for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the heights situated to the west of Lake Khasan "Chanchi". The Japanese Government having again studied this question on the basis of data in the possession of the Manchurian Government came to the conclusion that this district belongs to Manchuria. Moreover, the Manchurian population confirms that on the height in question it was in the habit of celebrating religious ceremonies. The Soviet Government has always manifested its inclination for peace and for the preservation of the status quo on the frontier region and therefore the responsibility will fall on that Government for the violation of this status quo. The Japanese Government does not insist on the frontier now being accurately defined and its demand extends only to the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from the area in question whereby calm will be restored.

Comrade Litvinov reminded Ambassador Shigemitsu that official documents to wit: the Khun Chun agreement and maps subjoined thereto were shown to the Japanese Charge d'Affaires, on which maps, the frontier is perfectly clearly traced, running through the mountains lying to the west of Lake Khasan. The maps bear the signatures of the representatives of a former Chinese Government. By the display of these documents the question should be considered closed. However, to this completely indisputable evidence the Japanese Government in refutation refers to some indefinite data not presented to the Soviet Government and to certain statements by an unnamed Manchurian villager which are impossible of verification. The inclusion of the height to the west of Lake Khasan in Soviet territory can under no circumstances be disputed. Soviet territory can under no circumstances be disputed. Soviet military detachments have been sent thither before this and are sent there now. Within the confines of its territory the transfer of Soviet troops is regulated by the Soviet authorities and no interference or demands of another government can be admitted. The Soviet detachment in that district has no other purpose than the protection of the status quo on our frontier. Differently from other governments the Soviet Union maintains armies not to send them into other countries but solely for the protection of its frontiers. The Red Army fully admits its responsibility for the non-violation and integrity of these frontiers and in its actions is inspired by that responsibility.

On the frontier complete tranquility reigns and it can only be broken by the Japanese Manchurian side which in that event will bear the responsibility for the consequences. (END SECTION ONE)

KIRK

WVC CSB

From Moscow
Dated July 22, 1938
Received 11:35 a.m.

Secretary of State
Washington
July 22, noon (SECTION TWO).

At whatever points Soviet forces may find themselves they do not threaten the territory of others. If in the future the Japanese Government produces the data in the possession of Manchuria which it cites the Soviet Government will gladly examine them and give its opinion thereon.

Ambassador Shigemitsu expressed the assumption that his Government would not be satisfied with the answer of the Peoples Commissar, in his opinion the Soviet Government is citing "some unpublished maps or others". It is indisputable to take measures looking to a restoration of tranquility on the border and a detente of the atmosphere which has been created there. Otherwise Japan must come to the conclusion regarding the indispensability of adopting force. Again repeating his demands regarding the withdrawal of Soviet forces Mr. Shigemitsu made a protest against the killing of a Japanese gendarme by the Soviet forces.

Comrade Litvinov expressed his astonishment that such an experienced diplomat as Ambassador Shigemitsu should respond so disdainfully to official maps which define the frontiers between states. Whether in due time the maps were actually published or not the force and persuasiveness of the documents are hereby neither increased nor diminished. It is strange to hear these observations from the representative of a government which by no means practices the obligation of publishing all agreements concluded by it. Can it be that that government considers that the secret treaties concluded by it have no force? The demand for the withdrawal of the troops reinforced by absolutely no documents is unacceptable. Can it be that the Japanese would consent to change the disposition of its troops on the basis of such unsupported demands? As for the employment of force, if the Ambassador considers such a threat and intimidation advisable to which certain governments are actually yielding, a good diplomatic medium he must know that he will not find a successful employment of such means in Moscow. The Japanese gendarme was killed on Soviet territory where he should not have come.

In conclusion the Peoples Commissaire drew the Ambassador's attention to the invasion which took place on July 19 of the premises of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo by some Japanese bands or others distributing provocative hand bills there. Although ordinarily not a single person can enter the Embassy without being stopped by the considerable police force stationed there, the latter made no attempt to hinder the invasion of the Embassy by the bands. In the interest of tranquility and the normal functioning of the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo and the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, it is incumbent upon the Japanese Government to take measures for the punishment of the guilty and the prevention of a repetition of such events in the future". (END MESSAGE).

Repeated to Tokyc.

KIRK

WWC:CSB

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No. 9595

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I certify that the document hereunto annexed is a true copy from the files of this Department.

In testimony thereof, I, George C. Marshall, Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twenty-third day of January, 1947.

/s/ George C. Marshall
Secretary of State.

By /s/ B. E. Cash
Acting Authentication Officer,
Department of State

Ref Doc 1567

來 電

「モスコイ發」

一九三八年七月二十二日附

午前九時五十三分受信

「ワシントン」

國務長官宛

() 七月二十二日正午

往電 () 七月二十一日午後四時及ビ前電

「モスコイ」ノ朝刊紙ハ左記機譯ノ如キ「日本政府
ノ申出及ビ要求ハ根據ナシ」ト題スル公表ヲ目出ツ
タ所ニ發表シタ。

「今月二十日 日本大使ハ外務人民委員ヲ往訪シ左
ノ聲明ヲナシタ。

外務人民委員部ハ七月十五日琿春界約及ビ附屬地
圖ニ基キ、哈爾湖「長嶺」ノ西方高地カラノ「ソ」
聯兵撤收方ニ關スル日本大使館ノ要求ヲ拒絕シタ。
日本政府ハ滿洲國政府ノ有スル資料ニ基キ本問題
ヲ再ビ研究シ、右地方ハ滿洲ニ屬ストノ結論ニ達
シタ。ソノ上滿洲ノ住民ハ問題ノ高地ニ於テ宗教

Ref Doc 156

上ノ儀式ヲ行フ習慣デアツタコトヲ確認シテ居ル。
「ソヴイエト」政府ハ常ニ平和及ビ国境地方ニ於
ケル現状維持ノ志向ヲ表明シテ來タノデアルカラ
右現状破壞ノ責任ハ同國政府ニアル。日本政府ハ
今國境ヲ正確ニ劃定スルコトヲ主張スルモノデハ
ナク、其ノ要求ハ寧ラ「ソ」聯兵ヲ問題ノ地域カ
ラ撤収シテ平靜ヲ回復スルコトデアル。
同志「リトヴィノフ」ハ公約文藝即チ琿春界約及
ビ附屬地圖ハ日本ノ代理大使ニ提示セラレタガ、
右地圖ニハ國境ハ框メテ明瞭ニ附セラレ居リ哈藥
湖ノ西方ニアル山々ヲ通ツテ居ルコトヲ章光大使
ニ懇ヒ起サセタ。地圖ニハ支那ノ前政府代表者ノ
署名ガアル。此等ノ文藝ノ提示ニヨリ問題ハ済ン
ダモノト考ヘラルベキデアル。然ルニ日本政府ハ
コノ明カニ戰爭ノ余地ナキ證據ニ對シテ之ヲ反駁
シ、「ソヴイエト」政府ニ提示セラレテ居ナイ何
カ漠然トシタ資料及ビ氏名不詳ノ情報ノ一住民ノ
確證スルコトノ不可能ヲ陳述ニ言及シテ居ル。哈藥湖
西方ノ高地ガ「ソヴイエト」領ニ屬スルコトハ何
トシテモ戰爭ノ余地ガナイ。「ソ」聯部隊ハ事件
以前ニモソコニ派遣セラレ、又今日迄ラレテ居ル

Ref Doc 1567.

ノデアル。領土内ニ於ケル「ソ」聯兵ノ移動ハ
「ソ」聯官憲ニヨツテ規整セラレ、他國政府ノ干
渉又ハ要求ハ容認出來ナイ。右地方ノ「ソ」聯部
隊ハ我が國境ノ現狀ノ防衛以外ニ目的ヲ持ツテ居
ナイ。「ソ」聯ハ他國政府ト異リ、他國ニ派遣ス
ルタメニ軍隊ヲ維持シテ居ルノデハナク、専ラ國
境防衛ノタメデアル。赤軍ハ此等國境ノ不可侵及
ビ保全ノ責任ヲ十分認メ、ソノ行動ハ右責任ニヨ
ルモノデアル。

國境ハ完全ニ平靜デアツテ、ソレハ日滿側ニヨツ
テ破ラレルダケデアルガ、コノ場合ソノ結果ニ對
スル責任ヲ負フベキデアル。

(其ノ一終リ)

「カーク」

Ref Doc 1587

來

電

「モスコ」發

一九三八年七月二十二日附

午前十一時三十五分受信

「ワシントン」

國務長官宛

(七月二十二日正午 (其ノ二))

「ソ」軍ガドノ地點ニ居ラウト他國ノ領土ヲ脅威スルモノデハナイ。若シ將來日本政府ガソノ言及スル滿洲側所有ノ資料ヲ提示スレバ「ソ」聯政府ハ悦ンデ之ヲ検討シ之ニ關スル意見ヲ述ベルデアラウ。

重光大使ハ外務人民委員ノ回答ニ本國政府ハ満足シナイデアラウシ、自分ノ見解テハ「ソヴィエト」政府ハ「何カ公表セラレテ居ナイ地圖其他ノモノ」ヲ引用シテ居ルノデアル。國境ニ於ケル平靜ヲ回復シ現物ノ空氣ヲ緩和スルタメノ措置ヲ講ズルコトハ是非必長デアル。然ラザレバ日本ハ兵力使用ガ不可避デアルトノ結論ニ達スル外ナイ。重光氏ハ「ソ」軍撤收ニ關スル要求ヲ再び繰返シ、「ソ」軍ニヨル日本人憲兵一名ノ殺害ニ對シ抗議シタ。

同悉「リトヴィノフ」ハ重光大使ノ如キ經驗アル外交官ガ國家同ノ境界ヲ規定スル公的ノ地圖ヲコンナニ輕ク扱フコトニ對シ驚キヲ表明シタ。地圖ガ然ル

Ref Doc 1567

ベキ時ニ實際ニ公表セラレタニシテモ、サウデナク
テモ、文書ノ有スル力及ビ証明力ハソレニヨツテ増
減スルモノデハナイ。締結シタ一切ノ條約ヲ公表ス
ル義務ヲ實行スルトハ限ツテ居ナイ。國ノ政府ノ代
表者カラカ、ル見解ヲ聞クノハ妙ナモノデアール。同
政府ハ其ノ締結シタ秘密條約ヲ效力ノナイモノト考
ヘテ居ルトテモ云フノデアラウカ。全然文書ノ根據
ヲ有セズシテナサレル軍隊撤退ノ要求ハ容認シ得ナ
イ。日本側ハカ、ル根據ノナイ要求ニ是ク軍隊配置
ノ變更ヲ承諾スルトテモ云フノデアラウカ。兵力ノ
使用ニツイテハ、カ、ル脅迫威嚇ニハ某々國政府ハ
實際屈服シテ居ルガ、大使ガ之ヲ可ナリトシ、ヨイ
外交的手段ト考ヘルナラバ、「モスコ」デハカ、
ル手段ヲ使ツテ成巧シナイコトヲ御承知デナケレバ
ナラナイ。日本ノ憲兵ハ「ソ」聯邦土デ殺サレタノ
デアツテ、ソコヘハ來ルベキデハナカツタノデアール
結論トシテ外務人民委員ハ七月十九日東京ノ「ソヴ
イエト」大使館ノ橋内デ一團ノ日本人等ガ挑發的ナ
「ピラ」ヲ擲イタトイフ侵入事件ニ大使ノ注意ヲ喚
起シタ。通常大使館ニハソコニ詰メテ居ル多数ノ警
察官ニ制止セラレスニ、ハイル事ハ誰一人出來ナイ
ノデアールガ、警察ハ此ノ徒黨ノ大使館侵入ヲ阻止シ
ヤウトハシナカツタ。在京「ソヴィエト」大使館及

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「モスクー」日本大使館ノ平靜及ビ正常ナ運営
ノタメ日本政府ハ犯人ノ處罰及ビ將來此種事件ノ再
發防止ノ措置ヲトル義務ガアル。」

(電信終り)

東京へ電報済

「カーク」

Def Doc 1567

第九五九五號

米 合 衆 國 國 務 省

本文書ヲ因スル各位ニ敬意ヲ表ス

余ハ茲ニ添付セラレタル文書ガ當省ノ發送ヨリノ

眞正ナル寫ナルコトヲ證明ス

右證據トシテ國務長官タル余「ジョージ・シー・
マーシャル」ハ一九四七年一月二十三日「ワシ
ントン」市國務省證明官代理ラシテ同省ノ官印
ヲ押捺シ余ノ姓名ヲ記入セシメタリ

國 務 長 官 ジョージ・シー・マーシャル (署名)

國務省證明官代理 ビー・イー・キヤツシユ (署名)

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